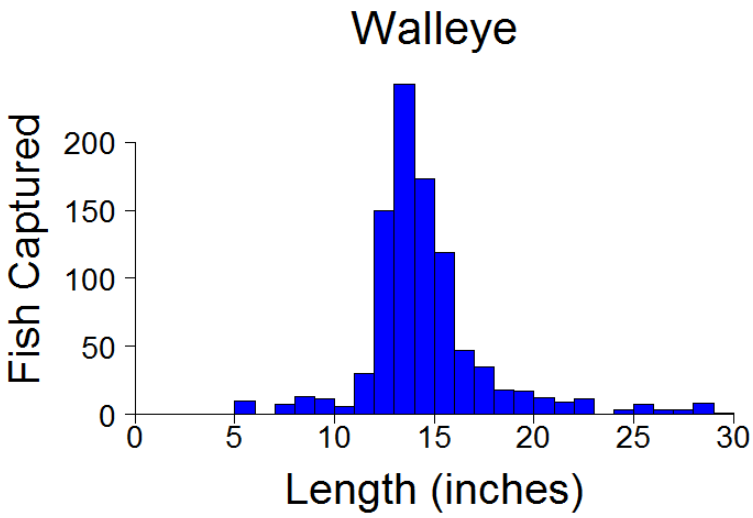
Summary of Fishery Surveys
Gile Flowage, Iron County, 2015

The Gile Flowage is a soft water drainage impoundment with predominantly sand, muck, and gravel substrates. It has a surface area of 3,384 acres and a maximum depth of 25 feet. The Mercer DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted the following fishery surveys on the Gile Flowage in 2015: an early-spring fyke netting survey targeting the walleye population; a late-spring electrofishing survey to assess bass and panfish populations; and a summer fyke netting survey assess the panfish populations. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society, and reflect the percentage of the adult population sampled larger than the specified size.

Walleye Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

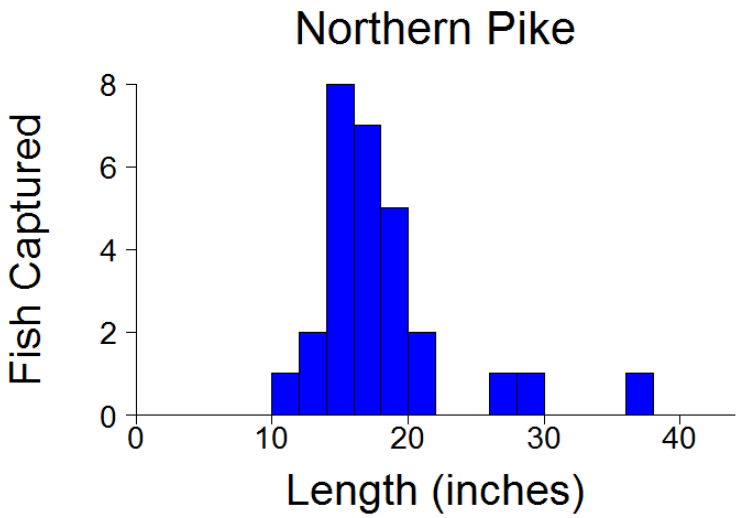
Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 15 in.)	33
Preferred (> 20 in.)	6
Memorable (> 25 in.)	2



We captured a total of 799 individual walleyes during our early-spring netting period at a rate of 159.4/net-night. Walleyes ranged in length from 10.9” – 29.0” and averaged 14.9”. While the proportion of the adult walleyes present above 15” is relatively low (33%), there are still respectable numbers of large fish (over 20”) available. These results suggest that walleyes are present in moderate-high densities and the population exhibits a well-balanced size structure.

Northern Pike Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

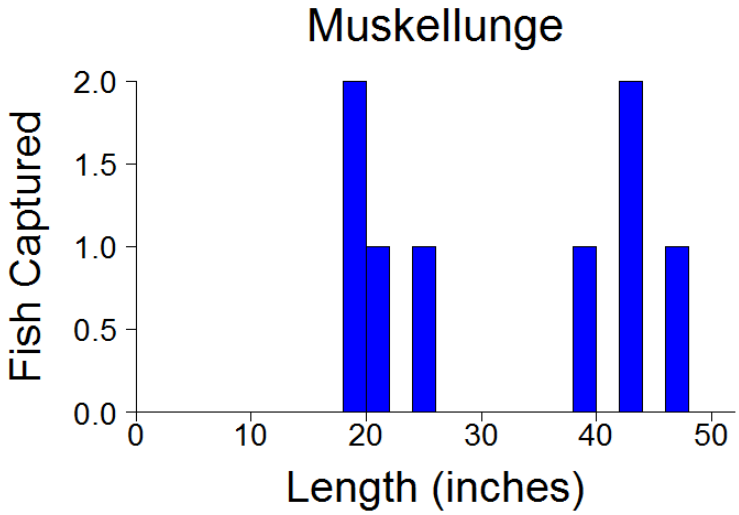
Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 21 in.)	12
Preferred (> 28 in.)	8
Memorable (> 34 in.)	4



Although northern pike were not targeted during any 2015 surveys, they were detected at low levels in all survey efforts. We sampled a total of 28 individual northern pike ranging from 11.6" – 37.9". While most fish sampled fall below the preferred size for anglers (as noted by low PSD and RSD values), the population exhibits trophy potential.

Muskellunge Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

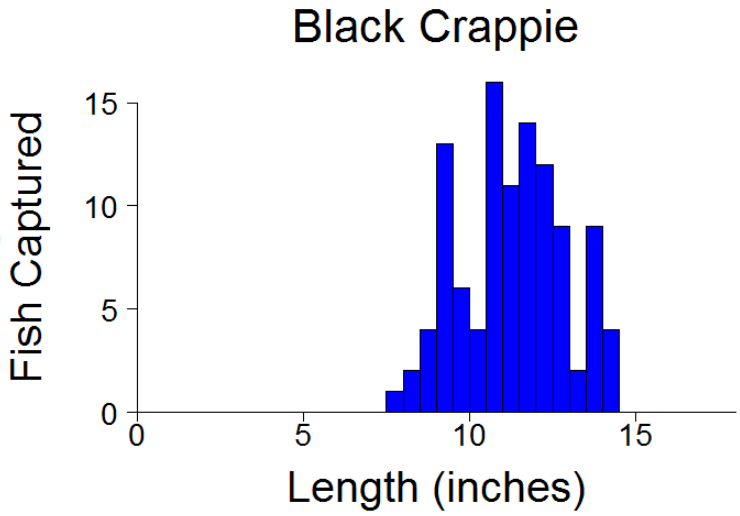
Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 30 in.)	67
Preferred (> 38 in.)	67
Memorable (> 42 in.)	50



Muskellunge were not targeted in during our survey work during 2015, but were detected in all surveys conducted. We handled a total of 8 muskellunge ranging from 18.0" – 46.0". Individuals observed in our survey work indicate that the muskellunge population exhibits a quality size structure.

Black Crappie Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

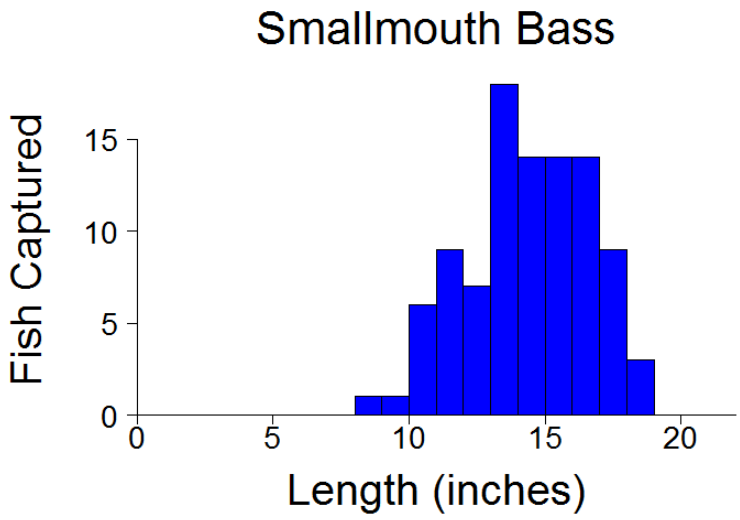
Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 8 in.)	99
Preferred (> 10 in.)	76
Memorable (> 12 in.)	34



The summer fyke netting survey sampled a total of 78 black crappies at a rate of 5.3/net night. Crappies ranged in length from 8.4” – 14.3” and averaged 11.2”. These results suggest that black crappies are present in low densities, but the population exhibits a quality size structure.

Smallmouth Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

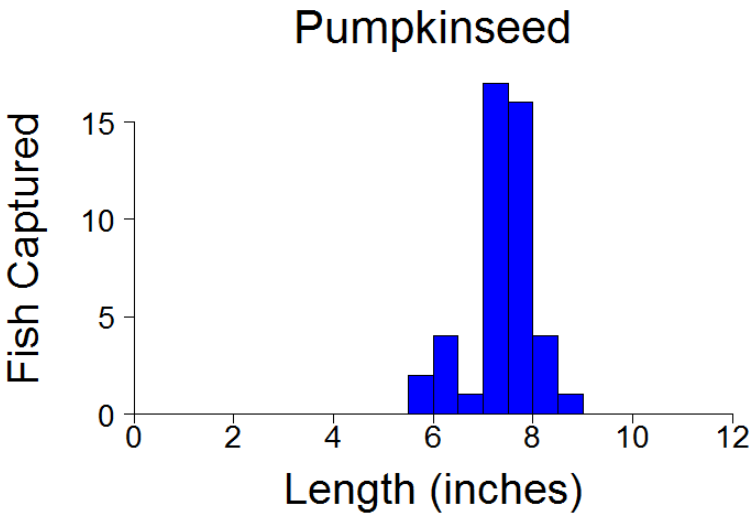
Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 11 in.)	92
Preferred (> 14 in.)	56
Memorable (> 17 in.)	12



The targeted, late-spring electrofishing survey sampled a total of 85 smallmouth bass at a rate of 21.3/mile. Smallmouth bass ranged in length from 8.8” – 18.1” and averaged 14.2”. These results suggest that smallmouth bass are relatively abundant and the population exhibits a quality size structure.

Pumpkinseed Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

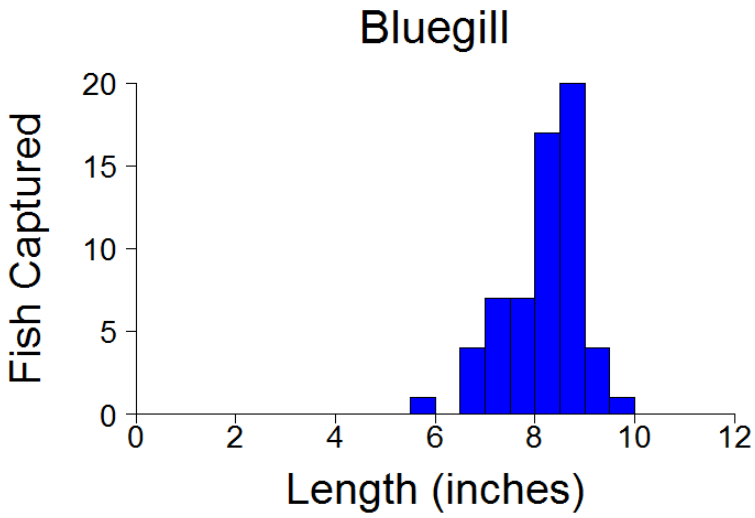
Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 6 in.)	96
Preferred (> 8 in.)	11
Memorable (> 10 in.)	0



During a targeted summer fyke netting survey, pumpkinseeds were captured at a rate of 2.5/net night. A total of 38 individuals were sampled ranging in length from 5.5” – 8.7” and averaged 7.3”. These results suggest that pumpkinseeds are present in low densities but the population exhibits a quality size structure.

Bluegill Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 6 in.)	98
Preferred (> 8 in.)	69
Memorable (> 10 in.)	0



During a targeted summer fyke netting survey, bluegills were captured at a rate of 3.3/net night. A total of 59 individuals were sampled ranging in length from 5.8” – 9.6” and averaged 8.2”. These results suggest that bluegills are present in low densities but the population exhibits a quality size structure.

Additional Notes:

Results from all surveys conducted during 2015 suggest that the Gile Flowage is a predator-dominated system. Walleyes, northern pike, muskellunge, and smallmouth bass appear to be present in relatively strong numbers. While quality numbers may be the most notable feature of these populations, trophy potential exists for all gamefish species. On the other hand, panfish populations appear to be at low densities, but black crappies, bluegill, and pumpkinseeds all appear to have quality size structures.

Rock bass, brown and yellow bullheads, and yellow perch were also observed in these surveys. For questions or additional results from 2015 survey work contact:

Zach Lawson
Zachary.Lawson@Wisconsin.gov
Phone: (715) 476-7847

Survey Data Collected By: Jim Zarzycki and Zach Lawson
Analyzed and Report By: Zach Lawson, Fisheries Biologist, Iron County, 10/20/15
Approved for Posting By: Mike Vogelsang, North District Fisheries Supervisor, 2/3/16